

**WASHINGTON-** Congressman Bachus has signed on as an original co-sponsor to a bill introduced by Rep. Mark Foley (R-FL) that will end the taxation of FEMA funding and grants. Each year, FEMA provides valuable resources to help citizens and municipalities prepare for disasters such as hurricanes, floods, and tornados.

Currently, the IRS rules that funds provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency for disaster mitigation can be taxed as personal income. Many times, this leaves low-income families in difficult financial situations and deters others from seeking funding altogether.

"The idea that the IRS would tax people who are trying to save their homes and families is outrageous," Bachus said. "This legislation will allow homeowners and families who live in disaster prone areas like tornado alley and the Gulf Coast to seek federal disaster aid without hesitation."

As seen recently with Hurricane Ivan's devastating effect on the state of Alabama, disaster mitigation programs provided by FEMA are crucial to saving lives and minimizing the cost of clean-up and rebuilding after a catastrophic event.

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